GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2106
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
TELECOM FACILITIES IN NER
BHIM PRASAD DAHAL

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of telephone exchanges in rural areas of North-Eastern Region including Sikkim are less than their requirements;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of persons on the waiting list of telephone connections in each State of these region at present; and

(d) the time by which this waiting list is likely to be cleared?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. In order to meet he telephone demand in the rural areas of North Eastern region including Assam and Sikkim, following targets have been set for the year 2001-02:-

i) There is a plan to open 52 telephone exchanges in these areas.
ii) It is planned to provide 60,000 lines of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) systems in scattered and remote areas of these States.
iii) For the inaccessible areas, 120 satellite terminals have also been planned.

(c) & (d): State-wise waiting list of North Eastern Region including Assam and Sikkim as on 30.6.2001, is given below:-

Name of Circle	Name of State	Waiting list as on 30.6.2001
North East-I(NE-I)	Meghalaya	2022
	Mizoram	885
	Tripura	4256
North East-II (NE-II)	Arunachal Pradesh	1898
	Manipur	1704
	Nagaland	612
Assam	Assam	13570
West Bengal	Sikkim	70

The above waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 2002.